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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 7982.0002-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Tanweer AHSAN et al.

Application No.: 09/555,641 Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: October 2, 2000 Examiner: Rebecca A. Blanton

For: TREATING PARTICULATE ALKALINE EARTH METAL CARBONATES

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

In response to the Office Action dated March 1, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and continued examination of the subject application in view of the following amendments and remarks. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute amended claim 1 as follows for pending claim 1:

1. (Amended) A method of treating a particulate material comprising particles of an alkaline earth metal carbonate which includes the step of exposing the particulate material to a treatment atmosphere containing a surface treatment agent comprising one or more fatty acids which reacts with and coats the particles of the particulate material, wherein the treatment atmosphere is substantially water free and

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